

1 **Amendment to the Claims**

2 **In the Claims:**

3 Please cancel Claims 61 and 88-90.

4 Also, please amend Claims 57 and 71 as follows:

5 1-56. (Previously Cancelled)

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7 57. (Currently Amended) A method of using synthetic fabric scrap comprising delustered
8 synthetic fibers as a sorbent material for a liquid hydrocarbon, comprising the steps of:

9 (a) shredding said synthetic fabric scrap to produce a mass comprising a plurality
10 of discrete synthetic fibers, the mass comprising a majority of recycled delustered synthetic fibers and
11 a minority of recycled natural fibers;

12 (b) bringing said mass into contact with a liquid hydrocarbon;

13 (c) allowing said mass to sorb the liquid hydrocarbon; and

14 (d) mechanically collecting said mass after the hydrocarbon product has been
15 sorbed by the mass.

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17 58. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding the mass of synthetic
18 fibers is carried out until said synthetic fibers are processed into a majority of relatively shorter fiber
19 lengths, and a minority of relatively longer fiber lengths.

20 59. (Original) The method of Claim 58, further comprising the step of blending said
21 relatively shorter fiber lengths and said relatively longer fiber lengths together to form a sorbent
22 wadded mass characterized as having a substantial volume of internal interstices, said relatively
23 longer fiber lengths helping to bind said sorbent wadded mass together into a flexible and cohesive
24 mass.

25 60. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of allowing said wadded mass to
26 sorb the liquid hydrocarbon comprises the steps of:

27 (a) allowing said wadded mass to adsorb a portion of said liquid hydrocarbon
28 upon surfaces of the relatively shorter fibers and the relatively longer fibers; and

29 (b) allowing said wadded mass to absorb a portion of said liquid hydrocarbon
30 within said substantial volume of internal interstices.

61. (Currently Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 57, wherein said delustered fibers were delustered with titanium dioxide.

63. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding said mass of synthetic fibers is carried out so as to produce a majority of said synthetic fibers having a length in the range of from about 10 mm to about 20 mm, and a minority of said synthetic fibers having a length in the range of from about 75 mm to about 100 mm.

64. (Original) The method of Claim 57, further comprising the steps of segregating synthetic fabric scrap to provide a mass of synthetic fabric scrap comprising substantially more synthetic fiber than natural fiber; and then shredding only said mass of synthetic fabric scrap.

65. (Original) The method of Claim 64, wherein the step of segregating synthetic fabric scrap provides a mass of synthetic fabric scrap comprising about 90% synthetic fiber.

66. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding comprises the step of controlling a processing rate while shredding the fabric scrap to achieve a desired reduction of fabric scrap into fiber.

67. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding comprises the step of reducing an amount of flags present in the fiber being generated to a desired level.

68. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding comprises the step of adjusting a height between a table on which the synthetic fabric scrap is disposed and a cutting drum employed to shred the synthetic fabric scrap.

69. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding comprises the step of adjusting a height between a table on which the synthetic fabric scrap is disposed and a pinning drum employed to shred the synthetic fabric scrap.

70. (Original) The method of Claim 57, further comprising the step of segregating synthetic fabric scrap to remove larger pieces of synthetic fabric scrap, and then shredding only a remaining mass of the synthetic fabric scrap.

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71. (Currently Amended) A method for removing liquid hydrocarbon from a surface contaminated with the liquid hydrocarbon, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a recycled delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent, the recycled delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent comprising a majority of recycled delustered synthetic fibers;

(b) collecting the liquid hydrocarbon by:

(i) bringing said delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent into contact with the liquid hydrocarbon;

(ii) allowing the delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent to adsorb the liquid hydrocarbon from the contaminated surface, adsorbed hydrocarbons accumulating upon a plurality of rough, delustered surfaces of said delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent; and

(c) mechanically removing said delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent from the contaminated surface.

72.-87. (Previously Cancelled)

88. (Cancelled)

89. (Cancelled)

90. (Cancelled)